

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1, 3-9 and 11-14 are now pending in the application, with Claims 1, 9 and 13 being independent. Claims 15-20 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claims 1, 3-9 and 11-14 are allowed. These claims have not been amended herein, thus remaining in condition for allowance.

Claims 15-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Without conceding the propriety of this rejection, these claims have been cancelled without prejudice. Thus, only allowed claims remain in the application.

This Amendment After Final Rejection does not raise new issues, is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicant earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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